

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 2, 2017

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana this week was marked by warm days, cool nights and scattered precipitation according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. High temperatures ranged from the upper 40s to the upper 60s and low temperatures ranged from 15 degrees in West Yellowstone to the lower 30s. Precipitation was scattered and varied widely across the State, with the highest amount recorded in Libby with 1.50 inches of moisture. Other reporting stations recorded receiving between none to 1.03 inches of moisture. Topsoil moisture conditions were 93 percent adequate to surplus which is above of last year's 50 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions are 87 percent adequate to surplus, well above last year's 41 percent. Some reporters have noted that while soil moisture conditions are excellent any more received now will delay spring planting. Winter wheat rapidly continued breaking dormancy as temperatures warmed with 61 percent out of dormancy. Winter wheat condition is rated 63 percent good to excellent, compared with 56 percent last year. Livestock grazing is 92 percent open to difficult compared to 82 percent at the same time last year. Pasture and range conditions are emerging from winter with 57 percent rated good to excellent compared with 21 percent last year and the 5-year average of 25 percent. Livestock producers are providing supplemental feed as they wait for pastures to start greening with 90 percent of cattle and 94 percent of sheep being fed. Livestock birthing is well underway with 52 percent of calving and 48 percent of lambing complete so far.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy.....	61	8	27	NA
Cattle and calves				
Calving completed.....	52	13	36	46
Receiving supplemental feed.....	90	91	87	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Lambing completed.....	48	9	27	32
Receiving supplemental feed.....	94	92	91	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	3.2	NA	5.1	4.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	--	1	17	12
Short.....	7	6	33	24
Adequate.....	82	82	50	56
Surplus.....	11	11	--	8
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	3	4	20	13
Short.....	10	9	39	26
Adequate.....	74	78	39	53
Surplus.....	13	9	2	8

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing Accessibility				
Open.....	77	77	70	63
Difficult.....	15	17	12	17
Closed.....	8	6	18	20
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	2	NA	12	10
Poor.....	10	NA	22	24
Fair.....	31	NA	45	41
Good.....	40	NA	19	23
Excellent.....	17	NA	2	2
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	--	1	--	1
Poor.....	5	6	4	6
Fair.....	32	31	40	39
Good.....	58	57	53	44
Excellent.....	5	5	3	10

NA – not available

(--) – zero

Montana’s weather data can be accessed at the following:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2017/MT_Weather_04022017.pdf